

## THOMPSON COBURN

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December 11, 1997

Ms. Leslie A. Kirby  
Assistant Regional Counsel  
U.S. EPA - Region V  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: U.S. EPA Demand for Reimbursement of Costs Expended at Site Q of the Area 2 Sauget  
Superfund Site

Dear Ms. Kirby:

As you may know, Monsanto Company divided into two separate publicly held companies on September 1, 1997. As a result of this separation, Solutia will own and operate a number of chemicals-based businesses and their associated manufacturing plants, which previously belonged to Monsanto Company.

Solutia has agreed that it will indemnify Monsanto for certain liabilities and at the same time Monsanto has authorized Solutia to act as Monsanto's agent to act to fulfill its obligations. Solutia received your demand letter for site Q cleanup costs and will respond on behalf of Monsanto.

Although very little documentation was received concerning what the costs being demanded were incurred for, based on information available to date, the 1995 action appears to have involved removal of 13 drums and 297 tons of contaminated soil. It also appears that EPA determined the action to be a time-critical removal. This is the only information we have on cleanup of this site in 1995.

Please provide Solutia with any and all information which would indicate that the material and/or the drums removed by EPA originated from a Monsanto facility. We also request any analysis which would indicate that the material removed was hazardous.

Even if Monsanto were liable for the cleanup, EPA has sent insufficient cleanup and financial information to allow Solutia to verify the very general demand that has been made. Please forward a cost package that documents each expense incurred.

The demand letter provides a short list of parties which EPA considers to be PRPs. Solutia objects to Monsanto being singled out for receipt of the demand letter when it is clear that a landfill such as Site Q would have had many more PRPs than those attached to the demand. If every potential responsible party is listed, the site issues will be resolved more quickly.

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St. Louis

Helleville

St. Charles

Washington, D.C.

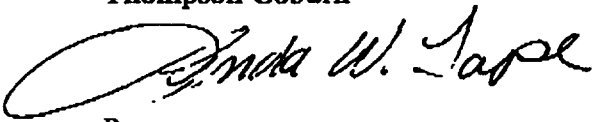
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While Solutia supports the prompt and efficient cleanup of sites which present an imminent and substantial danger to human health or the environment, it can not afford to participate in cleanup of sites for which it, and/or Monsanto, are not responsible. On the other hand, Solutia is interested in working with the agency in resolving environmental problems which it has had a role in causing. Therefore, if and when further information is received, Solutia will review it and respond to the EPA's demand appropriately.

Very truly yours,

Thompson Coburn



By

Linda W. Tape

LWT/cn

cc: Mr. Brent Gilhousen  
Mr. Steven Smith  
Mr. Joseph G. Nassif

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